

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO DIRECTING THE  
STORMWATER DIVISION TO EVALUATE POTENTIAL LONG-TERM FUNDING  
MECHANISMS

WHEREAS San Diego's stormwater services are essential to protecting environmental water quality, safeguarding our communities from flooding, restoring the environment, providing a wide array of recreational and other community benefits, and improving the resilience, sustainability and livability of the City; and

WHEREAS in June of 2018 the Office of the City Auditor conducted a performance audit of San Diego's Stormwater Division that found an immense and widening gap between annual funding allocated and total funding needed; and

WHEREAS historic underfunding has contributed to inadequate and deferred maintenance of the stormwater system a growing backlog of essential capital investments.

WHEREAS this underinvestment has led to serious consequences for the City and its citizens including impaired environmental water quality, and serious stormwater system failures leading to flooding, property damage, and sinkholes, increased costs for repairs and maintenance, and increased public liability exposure; and

WHEREAS achieving environmental water quality standards and regulatory compliance is greatly expanding the funding need; and

WHEREAS one of the key recommendations of the Audit was that the Stormwater Division should develop a long-term Funding Strategy to meet its present and future capital and operational needs, and that as part of that strategy a plan to pursue desired funding mechanism(s) be included; and

WHEREAS the Funding Strategy Audit response to Recommendation #5 was published to the Environment Committee on January 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS the Funding Strategy finds that the gap between needed and available funding cannot be closed by current revenue sources, cost savings, and increased efficiencies alone; and

WHEREAS the Funding Strategy recommends a long-term funding mechanism be developed to provide dedicated revenue to fund stormwater services; NOW  
THEREFORE,

***BE IT RESOLVED***, that the City Council of the City of San Diego hereby requests that the Stormwater Division, in coordination with the Office of the City Attorney and other appropriate City departments to:

1. Explore creation of a dedicated funding mechanism to fund the Clean Water, Flood-Safe Communities, and Community Revitalization Program.
2. Conduct broad-based education, outreach, and engagement to educate

stakeholders and the public about City stormwater issues and to solicit input on the Clean Water, Flood-Safe Communities, and Community Revitalization Program and potential funding mechanism.

3. Report back to City Council by July 2021 on the Clean Water, Flood-Safe Communities, and Community Revitalization Program and the most appropriate funding mechanism to implement the Program.

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